

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of addressing mobile stations in a wireless communication system comprising:

obtaining a list of mobile addresses; and

determining a partial address length and portion to communicate with each mobile station.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising sorting the list of mobile addresses by slot location so that each mobile station a slot has a unique partial address.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising selecting different partial address lengths for different slots.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting a consecutive portion of the address as the partial address.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting the partial address length to a frame length or less.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting a partial address length to minimize the bits transmitted by the wireless communication system.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising addressing the mobile stations using addresses of the partial address length.

8. A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of mobile stations, wherein each mobile station has a unique address;

a base station which communicates with the plurality of mobile stations, the base station comparing the addresses of each mobile station to determine a partial address length at which each mobile station may be uniquely identified.

9. The wireless communication system of Claim 8, wherein each of the mobile stations monitors a specific slot for its address.

10. The wireless communication system of Claim 9, wherein the base station determines a partial address length at which each mobile station with a specific slot may be uniquely identified.

11. The wireless communication system of Claim 10, wherein the partial address length may vary between slots.

12. The wireless communication system of Claim 8, wherein the partial address is selected from consecutive bits of the unique address.

13. The wireless communication system of Claim 8, wherein the partial address length is a frame length or less.

14. A method of varying the address length in a wireless communication system comprising:

selecting a partial address length which results in each terminal of the wireless communication system obtaining a unique partial address.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising dividing the addresses into groups based on the monitored slot, wherein each address in a group is unique.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising permitting different address lengths in each group.

17. The method of Claim 14, further comprising using consecutive bits of a terminal address to create the unique partial address.